

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,  
M. S. COLLEGE,  
SAHARANPUR 247 001,  
May 11, 1982.

V. C. CHATTERJEE

REFERENCE

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19. A NOCTUID DEFOLIATOR PEST, *DICHROMIA OROSIA* CRAMER (NOCTUIDAE: LEPIDOPTERA) OF ANTAMUL, A MEDICINAL PLANT

Antamul, *Tylophora asthmatica* (Asclepiadaceae) a medicinal plant whose leaves and roots are used as emetic, expectorant, diaphoretic, alterative, blood purifier and stimulant and is the best indigenous substitute for ipecacuanha (Dastur 1977). The leaves and roots contain the alkalid tylophorine which is similar in action to ipecacuanha.

During the second week of December, 1981 Antamul, grown at the Regional Research Station, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad Campus, Karnataka was found heavily infested by this pest. The caterpillars damaged the leaves eating them from the margin.

The females laid eggs singly on the undersurface of the leaves. The eggs were smooth,

green in colour and dorsoventrally flat. On hatching, the grubs restricted themselves to the undersurface of the leaf and defoliated. The larvae orange, the head and somites provided with series of small black tubercles. The full grown grub pupated in silken cocoons in soil below the plant or in leaf folds.

The head and thorax of newly emerged adult moths were clothed with grey black mottled scales, abdomen orange, forewing grey. A large sub-triangular black patch with pale edges occupying the medial area but not reaching the inner margin hind wings orange, the apical area black, undersurface of the forewing fuscous. This is the first record of the pest on the medicinal plant.

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY,  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
DHARWAD-580 005,  
May, 31, 1982.

M. C. DEVAIAH  
R. RAJSHEKHAR GOUDA  
Y. K. KOTIKAL  
SUHAS YELSHETTY

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